

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KABUL 03101 040535Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
-----040539Z 120828 /14

R 040330Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2535

UNCLAS KABUL 3101

FOR NEA/PAB, AUSTRIAN FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, AF
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MARS LINK, KABUL-OMAHA

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THOMAS A. GOUTTIERRE,
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, OMAHA.

2. QUOTE FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF YOUR APRIL 15 LETTER
CONTAINING ADDITIONAL DATA FROM MR. HUGH TINLEY REGARDING
A MARS COMMUNICATION LINK BETWEEN KABUL AND OMAHA, WE HAVE
HAD FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH LOCAL AFGHAN AND U. S.
OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE MATTER. IN VIEW OF PENDING VISIT
TO OMAHA OF AFGHAN MINISTER OF HEALTH AND YOUR DESIRE TO
DISCUSS MATTER WITH HIM, I HAVE REQUESTED OUR DESK OFFICER TO
PASS ON TO YOU OUR FINDINGS TO DATE. THESE FINDINGS INDICATE
ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MORE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT THAN THEY FIRST
APPEARED.

3. FIRST, EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE RADIO CAPABILITY
TO REACH THE U.S. DIRECTLY. SO, RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR AN
EXPERIMENTAL HOOK-UP WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT TO KABUL.
SECOND, THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TRIED DIRECT RADIO
COMMUNICATION, KABUL TO NEW YORK IN 1958, USING A
20 KW TRANSMITTER AND SPECIAL ANTENNA. THE EXPERIMENT
DID NOT WORK: THE SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO WAS SO POOR
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AS TO MAKE TRANSMISSION IMPRACTICAL. THE AFGHAN
DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, WHO IS A RADIO ENGINEER,
FEELS THAT A SUCCESSFUL DIRECT LINK WITH THE U. S.
WOULD REQUIRE A SPECIAL RHOMBIC DIRECTIONAL ANTENNA
COUPLED WITH A POWERFUL TRANSMITTER.

4. WE EXPECT A RULING FROM THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS SHORTLY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FREQUENCIES
CITED BY MR. TINLEY, I.E., 13,827, 13,975, AND 14,385
MEGAHERTZ. I WILL LET YOU HAVE A REPORT ON
THIS, AND OTHER FINDINGS, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE --
HOPEFULLY BEFORE YOUR VISIT TO KABUL IN LATE MAY OR EARLY
JUNE. IF THIS NOT POSSIBLE, LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING
THE SUBJECT FURTHER WHILE YOU ARE HERE. EXPERIMENTAL
PROGRAM WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE TO AWAIT RESOLUTION OF ALL
DETAILS, INCLUDING FORMAL APPROVAL OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT.

5. BEST REGARDS, TED. UNQUOTE.
ELIOT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED THOMAS A. GOUTTIERRE.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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